



Litter Picks

Electronic Newsletter

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Litter Picks, a look at litter prevention news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to litter prevention and awareness. Had a successful clean up event? Recognized companies or citizens for their clean up efforts? Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at gscoe@deq.virginia.gov.

Litter Grants for 2006 Have Been Awarded

The non-competitive grants for the Litter Prevention and Recycling Programs for the FY 2006 have been awarded. There were 189 applications that were received and processed. This year, \$1,924,326 was disbursed among the localities and co-ops that applied for funding. There was a 52% (statewide average) increase in the amounts received by the localities. This was due to a large increase in litter tax collections in FY 2005 over previous years (24%), and the General Assembly did not limit grant funding for FY 2006 as it had in the previous years. The Litter Control and Recycling Fund Advisory Board reallocated all previously unspent funds (competitive grants, litter campaign, etc.) to locality grants for 2006. It is unknown if there will be as large of an increase in litter taxes in future years. The grants that were awarded this year also reflected an allocation of unspent grant monies which will not be available next year.

Did You Know?

- ✓ The Clean Virginia Waterways wrote a handbook for convenience stores and fast-food restaurants to reduce litter. It is to be published and distributed by the Ocean Conservatory in 2005 or 2006.
- ✓ Keep America Beautiful is directing all funds received on line to the American Red Cross for disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Cleaning up Virginia

September 17 was declared the Official Virginia Annual Fall Clean up Day by the Virginia Department of Transportation and Clean Virginia Waterways; however, both agencies continue to promote pick ups throughout September and October. Volunteers are invited to collect trash along roads, waterways, and beaches. Both organizations ask volunteers to fill out data cards so that trash type and amount can be measured.

CVW is expecting 500 volunteers from Virginia to bag an estimated 80 tons of litter. The CVW tracks more than 120 annual clean up events a year. For a listing of opportunities to get involved, visit the following web site:

<http://www.longwood.edu/cleanva/iccsitesva05.htm>

Hanover County Establishes a "Clean Team"

Jack Ward, the chairman of the Hanover Board of Supervisors invites all citizens to take part in the "Help Clean Up Hanover Program." VDOT and Hanover County entered into an agreement to remove all illegal signs that appear in the right of way. Here are some suggested ways that Hanover County is asking its citizens to Keep Hanover Clean:

- ✓ Join the Adopt-a-Highway Program.
- ✓ Secure your loads.
- ✓ Clean up your property.
- ✓ Report Litter Violators to the Sheriff's Office.
- ✓ Use your ash Tray.

Hanover County has nine volunteer "Litter Ambassadors." These volunteers will speak to groups and organizations to promote litter awareness and increase volunteerism in the war against trash. For more information call 804-365-6181.

Ditching the Litter Problem in Buchanan County

Officials in Buchanan County say that ditches and roads have never looked cleaner. Toby Edwards, the Litter and Recycling Coordinator for Buchanan, Dickenson and Russell Counties shares his enthusiasm for using probationers to clean the highways in their Assign-a-Highway Program by saying; "It's something that all of Virginia's counties can do, and we want to share this wonderful program with the rest of the state."

Every road in Buchanan County has been assigned to probationers for roadside maintenance. If the road is not kept clean, their probation could be revoked. It's a great motivator for the offenders because they want to stay out of jail, and the roads are tidy. Probationers in the Assign-a-Highway program also preach anti-littering messages to their friends and family because when people litter, it makes more work for them.

In 2003, the probationers picked up 138 tons of trash. In 2004, they collected an additional 146 tons of trash. Dickenson and Russell Counties began this program last year and they have collected over 1,000 bags of trash in each county.

Steve Hamro III is the regional Assign-a-Highway Coordinator. He plans to meet with district officials throughout the Commonwealth to create a manual on setting up a program in other counties and municipalities. A web site about using the AAH program will also be created.

Web Link of interest:

- <http://civic.louisaelectronicvillage.net/louisacc/>

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